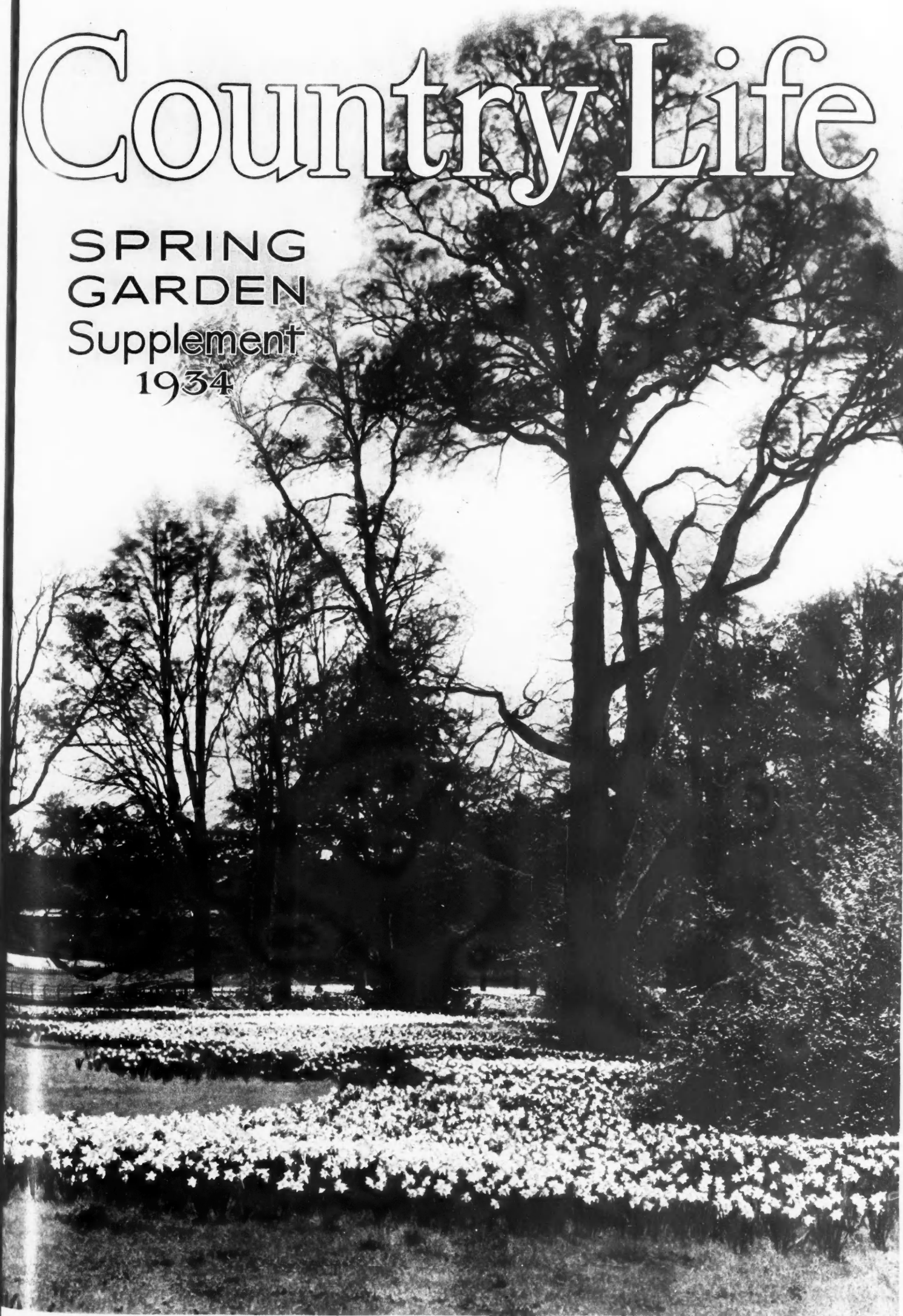


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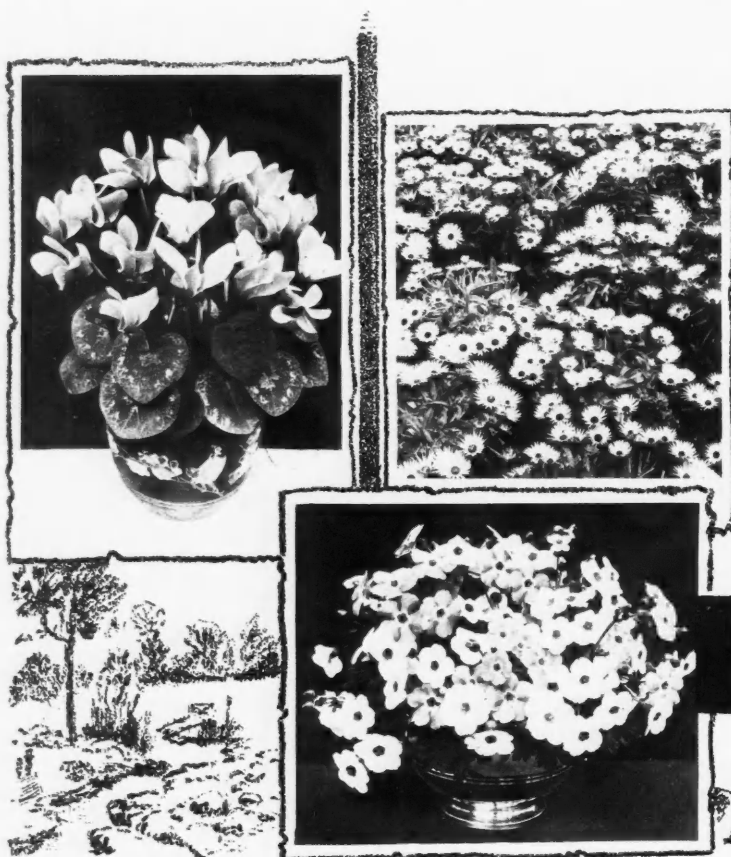
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SPRING
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Supplement
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for 1934



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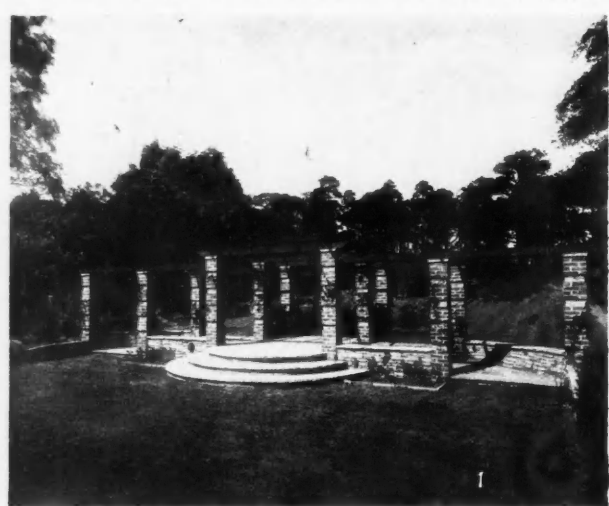
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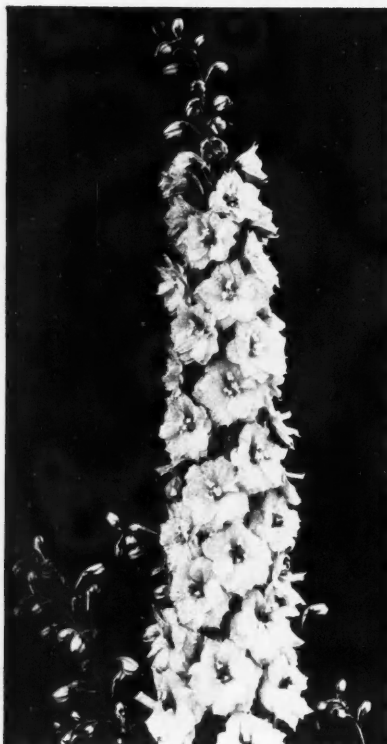
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HARDY BORDER FLOWERS



THE FESTIVAL OF SUMMER FLOWERS AT TRENT PARK, HERTFORDSHIRE

THE choice of a planting season for hardy border flowers is a matter for careful consideration. Autumn planting—*i.e.*, from Michaelmas to Christmas, is rarely advisable except, perhaps, in a particularly well drained soil where there is no risk of unestablished plants decaying through excessive moisture during the winter. While there is much to be said for planting such things as delphiniums, bearded iris, asters, phloxes and pyrethrums immediately after flowering or in late summer, thereby enabling them to become established before autumn sets in, it is often undesirable to disturb the border display at such times. Under these circumstances it is best to defer planting until February or March, when root action begins. This latter practice has the advantage of allowing the time necessary for a proper preparation of the planting site and the provision of any special soil conditions that may be required by some genera. *Scabiosa caucasica*, *echinaceas*, *Lupinus polyphyllus* and, in fact, the majority of plants with fleshy roots should be planted in spring to avoid decay in winter.

While it is not practical to attempt the arrangement of a border that will be one blaze of colour from June to Michaelmas, much can be done to avoid unsightly gaps. A methodical arrangement can be of great service in this direction. If groups of Michaelmas daisies or the tall late-flowering heleniums are placed before delphiniums, the withering foliage of the latter will quickly become obscured as the later flowering plants develop. Similarly phlox should be placed before lupins, *Aster Amellus* before *Delphinium Belladonna*, the dwarf *solidagos* before *trollius*, heleniums of medium height before peonies—to quote only a few examples. Judicious interplanting where the opportunity occurs has its advantages. Gladioli of the late-flowering groups may be planted among the rhizomes of bearded irises, the easier lilliums among peonies, and Darwin tulips among dwarf asters and other late-flowering subjects. These two methods, together with a sprinkling of annuals, will help the border to maintain a colourful display throughout the season.

The association of various genera so as to obtain the best colour harmonies needs great care



THE ARCHITECTURE OF A BORDER IS AS IMPORTANT AS ITS PAINTING

A variety of plants are introduced into the scheme to afford variation in texture as well as in colouring

and a full knowledge of the characteristics of each. Blooming at the same time, June-flowering bearded irises and lupins associate well in the same border. Amber is a valuable yellow iris and is seen to great advantage when contrasted with the deep blue lupin Sailor Boy. Blue irises, of which Lady Charles Allom and Ballerine are good examples, contrast finely with such lupins as the deep pink Charming, the salmon Highlander, or, if an even richer effect is desired, Lupins

Elizabeth Arden (orange apricot), and Yeoman of the Guard (deep yellow), may be used. It should be remembered, however, that, whereas bearded irises revel in lime soils, lupins do not possess a similar taste for this ingredient. Therefore the sites where irises are to be planted will require special preparation by incorporating old mortar rubble therein or providing a top dressing of garden lime. In neither case should organic manure be used.

In arranging groups consisting solely of lupins, two or more varieties should comprise each, for the colours lend themselves to a great variety of display. The deep indigo Black Knight forms a fitting background for the brilliant cerise red Mrs. Penry Williams; while Highlander, salmon pink, contrasts well with Mid-Blue or Lavanda, both medium blues. Those of orange-apricot colouring, among which C. M. Prichard, Elizabeth Arden



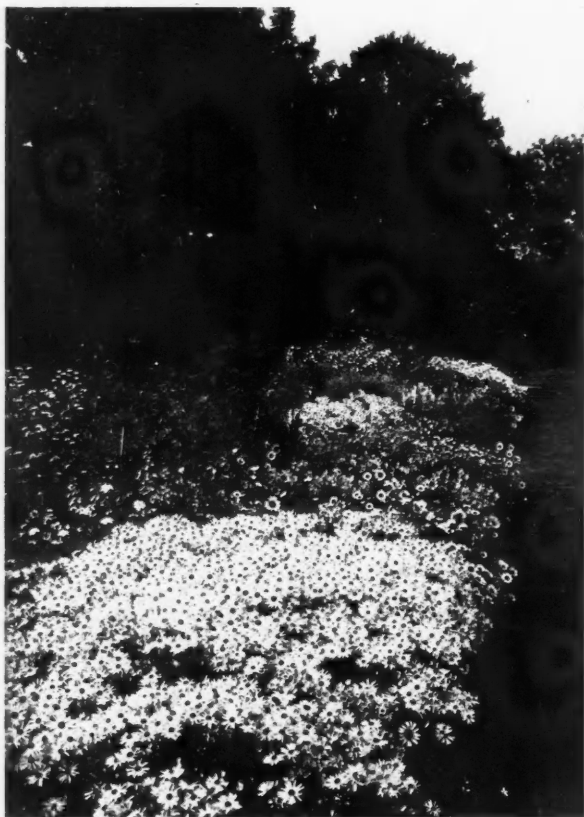
A COLOUR SCHEME IN BLUE AND YELLOW IN THE BORDER AT NORTH MIMMS PARK, HERTFORDSHIRE

Delphiniums and anchusas form the backbone of the display

a good display the crown of each plant should lie at not more than two inches below the earth's surface. Well decayed stable manure is a necessity where peonies are grown, but care must be taken that it does not come into direct contact with the main roots and cause decay. Although September is recognised as the best month in which to plant, it is quite safe to delay this operation until spring if the need arises. Free-flowering qualities are lacking in a number of the varieties of herbaceous peonies of to-day, so that I propose giving a selection of those that may be relied upon to bloom freely from year to year when they are established. Lady Alexandra Duff is a delightful shade of blush pink fading with age to white; Sarah Bernhardt has huge full flowers of bright rose; Felix Crousse is, without doubt, the best red for border adornment; Solange is deep cream shaded salmon

and Tangerine represent the *elite*, are immensely rich when accompanied by deep purple-coloured varieties such as Ruby King and Victoria. A very striking effect can be obtained by placing a few plants of the plum purple Medmont before a colony of the well known yellow variety Sunshine.

A few precepts regarding the culture of peonies will doubtless be welcomed, for their requirements are not so generally well known as some would have us imagine. To make doubly sure of



ASTER FRIKARTI IN THE FRONT LINE OF THE SEPTEMBER BORDER AT PORT LYMPNE, KENT



ERIGERONS AND DELPHINIUMS IN THE JULY BORDER AT SUNNINGHILL PARK, BERKS.

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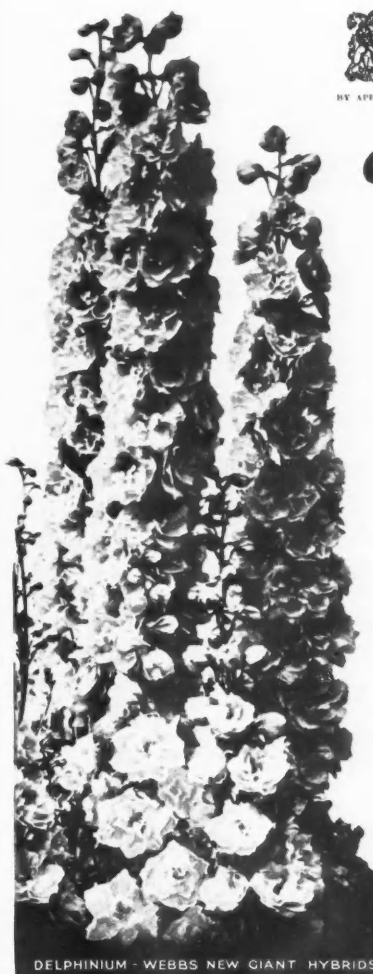
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at the centre. A variety that deserves a place in every large border of hardy plants is *Rubra superba*, the latest to bloom and a really fine crimson. Generally speaking, peonies are best allowed a position in the border entirely to themselves in association with later-flowering genera, although a delightful effect is obtained by planting *Lady Alexandra Duff* with *Anchusa Morning Glory*.

Towards the end of June and in early July the delphiniums will be at their best. Occupying back border positions, and fronted with *Michaelmas* daisies to hide the later gap, the modern varieties lend themselves to many charming arrangements. It has become quite a time-honoured custom to associate *Madonna* lilies with pale blue delphiniums such as *Afghan Queen*, *Mrs. Townley Parker*, and the beautiful double-flowered *Lady Eleanor*; but the effect with *Lilium regale* is still more attractive. *Verbascum nigrum*, deep yellow; and *V. vernale*, yellow and purple, contrast well with such varieties as *Pompadour*, *Reckitt's Blue*, *Blue Gown*, *Ultramarine*, *Jenny Jones* (deep purple), and *Will Shakespeare*, with towering spikes of medium blue shaded amethyst. For front border positions the dwarfiest of the *Belladonna* group should be planted.

In August the phloxes of the *decussata* group will expand their brilliantly coloured flowers. Phloxes should always be massed to obtain the best effect. Such varieties as *Lord Raleigh*, bluish purple; *Light of Codsall*, pale pink; *Appleblossom*, salmon; *Border Gem*, violet; *Daily Sketch*, deep pink; *Karl Foerster*, bright scarlet; and *Professor Went*, amaranth, if used in this way, will provide a valuable and brilliant effect in late summer. Not less than three plants of each should be planted where good colour mass is wanted. Generous feeding is necessary where phloxes are grown, and they should be allowed to remain undisturbed for several years. In contrast to phloxes of purple and violet colouring, the fine *Helenium Moerheim Beauty* is very effective.

Spring planting is the only safe method with *Kniphofias*, which, if planted out in April or May in well enriched and perfectly drained soil, will give a colourful display in summer. *K. erecta* is worth growing for its brilliant scarlet colour and the curious upside-down appearance of its spikes. Other good varieties include the late-flowering crimson *Nobilis*, the coral red *Mount Etna*, and the deep orange *C. M. Prichard*.

Asters, both tall and dwarf, form the mainstay of border display during September and October. As a contrast, the brightly coloured *Earlham* *montbretias* and the scarlet varieties of *Lobelia cardinalis* are invaluable in association with the blue and purple varieties of *Michaelmas* daisies. A glance into any plantsman's catalogue will reveal a wide selection of varieties, all more or less desirable, from which to choose.

A recent development among asters, and one that is proving its value for border and rock garden, is the new dwarf race. Dwarfer and stiffer in habit than the *Amellus* group, this new race is without a rival for adorning the front portions of the border in late September and October. *Remembrance* is one of the best, with clear lilac flowers; *Countess of Dudley* is a good clear pink; while *Victor*, the dwarfiest of all, is a telling lavender blue.

Two outstanding garden forms of *thalictrum* deserve mention. The first is *Ladham's Purple Cloud*, the finest coloured form of *T. aquilegifolium purpureum* and of excellent border habit. The second is *T. dipterocarpum* *Hewitt's Double*, a remarkably handsome form of this species, which it surpasses in vigour, with singularly graceful sprays of double violet amethyst flowers. G. A. P.



HERBACEOUS PEONIES IN THE EARLY SUMMER BORDER



MICHAELMAS DAISIES IN THE AUTUMN BORDER AT SANDRINGHAM



A BORDER OF JUNE-FLOWERING IRISES AT KNAPHILL NURSERY, SURREY

DISTINCTIVE TREES AND SHRUBS



HYDRANGEA ARBORESCENS GRANDIFLORA AT GRAYSWOOD HILL, HASLEMERE

THE conservative tastes of the average gardener are perhaps nowhere better reflected than in his choice of trees and shrubs for garden decoration. Notwithstanding the enormous variety of material that is now available, it is more than likely that, if a census was taken of the trees and shrubs represented in the ordinary garden it would be found that at the most some fifty species and varieties constituted the vast bulk of the tree and shrub population.

Ignorance of their many admirable qualities doubtless keeps many fine trees and shrubs of recent introduction out of many gardens where they would be welcomed, and though some of the newcomers are, perhaps, more for those who garden in favoured places and the collector and connoisseur, the majority have already proved to be first-rate ornamental shrubs and quite satisfied with ordinary conditions. The cotoneasters and the barberries are two large families rich in decorative shrubs to which many valuable additions have been made in recent years. Among the former, *C. lactea* and *C. serotina* are both handsome evergreens, especially worthy of a place for their late display of berries which are at their best in December. Somewhat similar in its graceful

arching habit, to *C. lactea*, *C. Harroviana* is another that provides a rich colour effect in mid-winter; and *C. Wardii* is noteworthy for the same reason, as well as the spreading *C. hebeophylla*, with its elegant arching branches generously strung with dull red berries. Besides these newcomers, such older species as *C. bullata* and its fine form called *floribunda*; the fast-growing *C. frigida*, so excellent for screening purposes; the beautiful *C. multiflora*; the upright and compact-growing *C. Simonsii*, invaluable for hedging and ground cover; the graceful *C. salicifolia* and its variety *rugosa*; the silver-foliaged *C. Franchetii*; as well as some of the dwarfs like *C. horizontalis*, should not be neglected, for in these are invested all the glories of this ornamental tribe. No less valuable for flower, fruit and foliage effect are the berberis, and it must be left to the planter to make a choice of these from any good shrub catalogue, for the numbers of species and varieties are now disconcerting even to the specialist. There are one or two species, however, of some merit, often overlooked, that are worthy of notice. *Berberis virescens* is well worth planting for the sake of its bright red stems in winter and its richly coloured leaves and dark crimson berries in the autumn;



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THE MAGNOLIA BORDER IN LATE APRIL AT TITTENHURST, BERKS.

and *B. Tischleri* is another of recent introduction that shows up well in the autumn, as does *B. Koreana*. The bronzy leaved variety of *B. Thunbergii* (itself one of the best of the race for autumn colour) is too good a shrub to neglect; and, of course, *B. Wilsonæ*, *B. dictophylla*, *B. rubrostilla*, *B. polyantha*, *B. stenophylla*, *B. Darwinii*, and the charming *B. verruculosa* should be represented in every shrub collection.

Mention of the cotoneasters and the barberries recalls many other shrubs and trees whose sole claim to a place in the garden lies in the beauty of their autumn tints, berry display, or their coloured bark. The dogwoods, represented by such species as *Cornus kousa* var. *chinensis*, *C. florida*, and the red-stemmed *C. alba atrosanguinea* and *sibirica*, are invaluable, as are all the spindlewoods, among which the native *Euonymus europæus* and its varieties, including one with white fruits; *E. latifolius*; and the Asiatic species, *E. planipes* and *E. yedoensis*, are possibly the best. The sweet gum, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, is always conspicuous in the autumn landscape, with its crimson and orange sycamore-like leaves; and the same can be said of *Parrotia persica*; the sorrel tree, *Oxydendrum arboreum*; *Amelanchier canadensis* (also worth planting for its blossoms); *Photinia villosa*; the vaccinioms; and the maples. For a fruiting display a selection can be made from the crab apples, the pernettyas, the snowberries, the sea buckthorn, the gaultherias, and many others; while for coloured bark effect choice can fall on none better than the white stemmed brambles.

For the spring pageant of flower no gardener will go wrong with the forsythias, among which *F. intermedia spectabilis* is by far the best; *Daphne Mezereum*; the two viburnums, *fragrans* and *Carlesii*; *Osmanthus Delavayi*; the witch hazels, selecting the Chinese *H. mollis* if there is only room for one; the early spiræas, including *SS. arguta*, *confusa*, and *prunifolia* fl. pl.; and the magnolias, represented by such aristocrats as *MM. denudata*, *Soulangiana*, *salicifolia*, *stellata*, *parviflora*, and *Watsoni*. The corylopsis and the cydonias are both

worth growing for the sake of their early spring display, as are the two invaluable heaths, *Erica carnea* and *darleyensis*. The cherries and the crab apples are a host in themselves, and no garden should be without such lovely flowering trees as the double gean, *Prunus Avium* fl. pl.; the Japanese cherries, such as *Hisakura* and *J. H. Veitch*, which are two of the best; *Prunus subhirtella* and its autumn-flowering form, the early blooming *P. Conradinæ* and *P. incisa*, the lovely *P. Sargentii*; the almonds and the peaches, represented by *P. Davidiana*, *P. Mume* and *P. persica Clara Meyer*; and the crabs, of which *P. floribunda* and its variety *atrosanguinea*, *P. purpurea*, *P. Eleyi*, *P. Sargentii*, and the Dartmouth and John Downie varieties are among the most desirable. To these should be added a few of the mountain ashes and the whitebeams, such as *P. Aucuparia* and its forms, the graceful *P. Vilmorinii*, the beautiful *Sorbus munda sub-arachnoidea* with fern-like foliage and pearly white fruits; and the handsome-leaved *P. Aria majestica* and *P. vestita*. All the thorns are invaluable for their flowers as well as for their sombre fruits; and the laburnums are all singularly lovely when they are in bloom, especially those called *L. Vossii* and *L. Watereri*. Though slow of growth, *Koelreuteria paniculata* makes a handsome tree; and for a late summer display there are few trees to beat the catalpas, especially in a summer like the last. The handsome *Davidia involucrata* is too fine a flowering tree to be omitted from any list, and the same applies to *Eucryphia pinnatifolia*, and its fine hybrid *E. Nymansay*.

There is no need to lavish praise on the brooms, the mock oranges, the lilacs, the diervillas, the ceanothus, the hypericums or the buddleias. Their virtues are well known. Some of the viburnums, however, are not so widely planted as they deserve to be, and those who do not already grow *V. plicatum* and its cousin *Mariesii* should include them in any planting that is being done this spring, as well as the two handsome *Hydrangeas* *H. paniculata grandiflora* and *H. arborescens grandiflora*, which are among the most showy of late summer flowering shrubs. G. C. T.



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THE HERBACEOUS BORDERS AT TRENT PARK IN EARLY SUMMER

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THE FESTIVAL OF THE JAPANESE WEEPING CHERRIES AT TITTENHURST, BERKS.



THE RHODODENDRON PAGEANT AT LITTLE PADDOCKS, SUNNINGDALE

LILIES FOR BORDER and WOODLAND



THE NOBLE LILIUM GIGANTEUM IN COMPANY WITH THE ORANGE L. UMBELLATUM

AS a result of the increasing interest taken in lilies during the last two or three years, it is now much more generally recognised among gardeners that the difficulties habitually associated with the cultivation of the majority of the members of this incomparably lovely race are more imaginary than real. Wrong methods of handling the bulbs and lack of understanding of their cultural requirements have combined to bring failure to many attempts at lily growing in the past. Now, however, that considerable progress has been made in the production of home-grown bulbs from seed and that it is realised that the bulbs of lilies are not to be treated like those of daffodils and tulips, and that certain soil conditions and suitable aspects are essential for their successful establishment, there is no reason why even the inexpert should have any difficulty in growing all but the most fastidious species. With a genus so widely spread in nature as the lily, it is not surprising that some species, coming from climates very different from our own, should prove a little unmanageable in the hands of the beginner; but that so very few of the race fail to settle down satisfactorily when good, sound, well rooted bulbs have been obtained and care has been taken in their planting, is a tribute to the accommodating ways of the family as a whole.

Though some, like a few of the Californian lilies, have their special wants in the shape of a cool soil where plenty of moisture is available to their roots during the growing season, and others, like the Madonna lilies, appreciate a sprinkling of lime in their diet, the majority are perfectly comfortable in a deeply dug soil consisting of fibrous loam, leaf soil and sand to which some spent mushroom bed manure has been added, and whose drainage is above suspicion. The gardener with lime in his soil need not hesitate to grow lilies, for there are many, apart from *L. candidum*, *chalcidonicum* and *pomponium*, such as *L. testaceum*, all the Martagons, the handsome *L. Szovitzianum*, the elegant *L. Henryi*, which suffer lime gladly. The provision of broken shade and shelter from cold cutting winds also plays an important part in their welfare, and the



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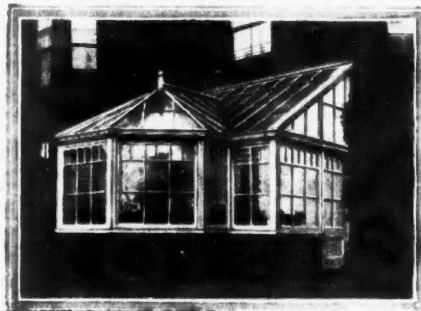


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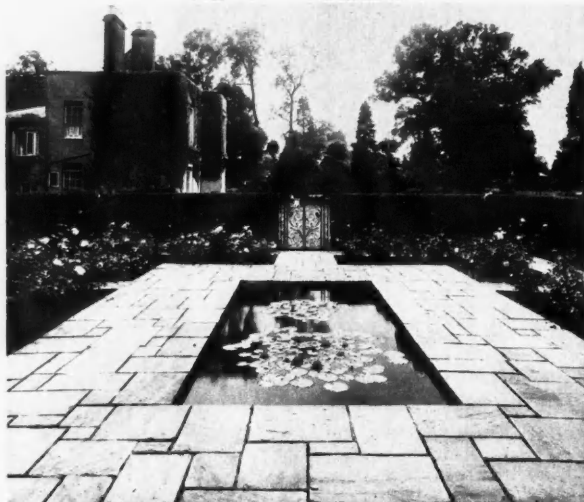


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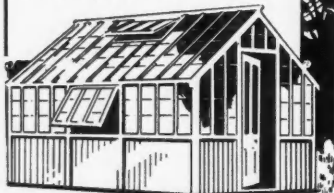
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wise gardener will exercise as much care in the choice of the positions for his lilies as in the preparation of the ground. With the exception of the Madonna lily and *L. testaceum*, which enjoy all the sun they can get, most species can be trusted to do well in partial shade, which not only helps to extend the season of enjoyment of their blooms, but also affords some protection from wind and late spring frosts, to which the young stems of some are particularly vulnerable. Such species as the fine orange *L. croceum*, a first-rate garden lily; the beautiful *L. regale*; the slender *L. tenuifolium*, with scarlet Turk's Cap flowers; and *L. pomponium*, will stand plenty of sunshine, as will the European *L. Martagon* and its forms, though the flowers are soon spent when they are fully exposed. The old Pyrenean lily is definitely a woodlander, and the same can be said of the noble *L. giganteum*; while all the Californians are best where they have dappled shade.

If the greater number of lilies are always to be seen at their best planted in among low shrubs, such as azaleas, dwarf rhododendrons, heaths and other



THE MADONNA LILY AND *L. REGALE* IN THE HARDY FLOWER BORDER



THE HANDSOME GOLDEN RAYED LILY OF JAPAN
L. auratum platyphyllum

similar things, a plant association that has utility as well as beauty to recommend it, especially with those species like *L. Hansoni*, *L. regale* and *L. auratum*, whose young stems are prone to injury by spring frosts, there are a few that are excellent for planting in generous colonies in the mixed hardy border. Among them none is more valuable than the lovely *L. candidum*, whose only drawback—and that, unfortunately, a serious one—is its liability to disease. Much the same conditions suit the beautiful Nankeen lily, *L. testaceum*, which can have no better associates than blue delphiniums and anachars, and the brilliant scarlet *Martagon*, *L. chalcidonicum*, of which the best form is that called *maculatum*. So long as the soil is not too stiff, the *Martagon* lily and its varieties, among which there is none to equal the white form named *album superbum*, will all do well, and the same can be said of the yellow-flowered *L. monadelphum Szovitzianum*, which, if it takes time to settle down after moving, is one of the most beautiful of the race.

The easy and vigorous *L. umbellatum*, whose form called *incomparabile* is to be preferred to all others, is better in the herbaceous border than anywhere, and



THE MAGNIFICENT *LILIUM REGALE* AT HIGHDOWN, SUSSEX



TIGER LILIES IN COMPANY WITH PHLOXES IN THE LATE SUMMER BORDER AT HATCHLANDS, VIRGINIA WATER

the same is true of the fine *L. croceum*, which affords a grand display in June and July with its brilliant deep orange cups. Equally accommodating and indispensable for colour effect in late summer is the tiger lily, whose forms named *Fortunei* and *splendens* are both worth planting in addition to the type; and no less easy to satisfy than these is the unrivalled *L. regale*, which is as much at home in the hardy flower border as in the company of shrubs.

For the woodland none is more suitable than the noble *L. giganteum*, which can have as its companions the graceful *L. Willmottiae* and its close cousin named *L. Davidii*, which are also happy planted in among shrubs which afford some support to their tall stems. For the same reason a similar position suits

the elegant *L. Henryi* and many of the Californians, such as the magnificent variety of *L. Humboldtii*, the easy-going *L. pardalinum* and its hybrid form called *giganteum*, *L. Roezlii* (all of which will succeed in ground which suits the Asiatic primroses), the elegant little *L. Columbianum*, and the beautiful *L. Parryi*. Besides these, the lovely *L. canadense* and its varieties *flavum* and *rubrum* should find a place in the shrub border, as well as the charming *L. Duchartrei Farreri* and its cousin the pink flowered *L. Wardii*, and the handsome *L. auratum* and its more robust form called *platyphyllum*, which are never more comfortable than when planted in broken shade in among rhododendrons and azaleas which stand breast high.

ANNUALS for GARDEN DECORATION

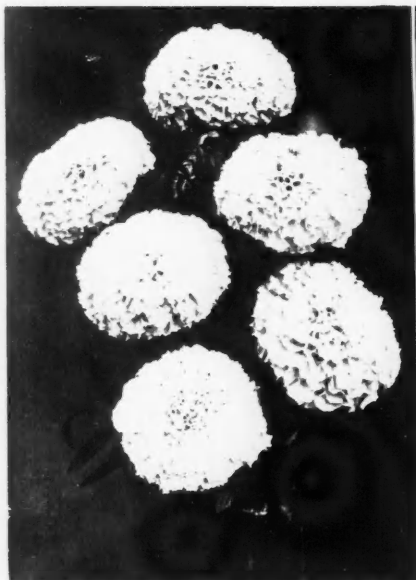
NOTHING could have possibly done more to convince all gardeners of the remarkable value and possibilities of annuals for garden decoration than last summer. Not since 1921 did they enjoy a season more favourable to their well-being, and never since then have they shown themselves, and more especially all the sun-loving kinds, to more advantage. It is all to the good that we should have had a summer that revealed their full beauty and focussed attention on the group, for there has been a tendency with many gardeners during the last few years to neglect plants of an annual persuasion in favour of more permanent things, partly as a measure of economy in the garden budget and partly because of the present vogue for trees and shrubs, and other hardy plants and alpines from China and its borderlands. There is room for plants of all kinds in a garden, however, and it is significant that those who are the picture-makers, as distinct from the collectors, and who strive for colour effect and picturesque incident in their borders and elsewhere, are those who make most use of annual flowers.

Only good can result from a definite revival in the cultivation of annuals and their more widespread use in all gardens, for they are plants of a great many virtues and singularly few faults,



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which is more than can be said of many other plants that find a permanent footing in gardens. They supply just those virtues that are so often lacking in the ordinary garden but which are so necessary for the preservation of the real garden atmosphere and for an extended season of colour and bloom during the summer. No plants are more lavish with their blossoms, provided they have proper care and attention during their flowering season, and few are richer in colouring or more varied in form. Added to these commendable qualities are their easy-going manners, simple wants and accommodating ways. They offer no difficulty in cultivation, and are quite comfortable in most soils and situations, though they are never seen at their best unless they have ground that has been well prepared and adequately but not too generously enriched. To the ingenious gardener they are full of possibilities and give endless scope for indulging in colour scheming and in different decorative arrangements. The majority are suited for filling in gaps in the hardy flower border and for bedding, but there are a certain number that can be relied on to do well in less disciplined places, such as on banks and in wild surroundings; and others, of small stature or of neat habit, that are specially suitable for the rock garden where there



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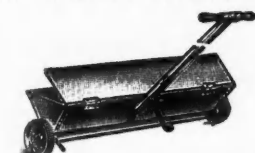


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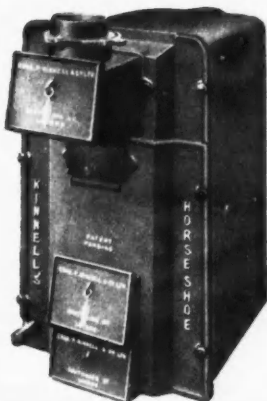
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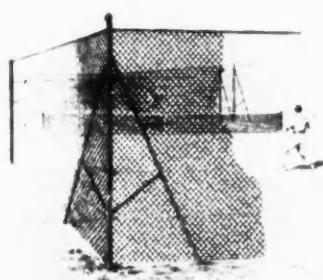
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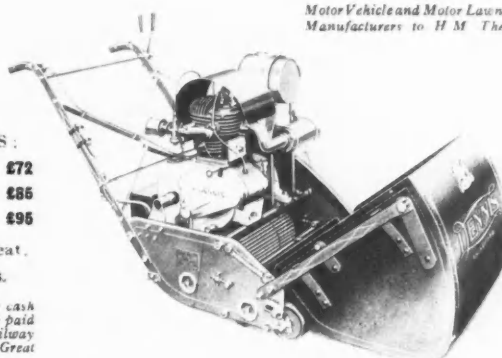
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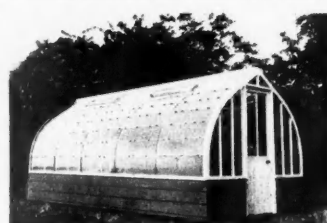
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are no restrictions placed on the inmates, the top edge of dry walling, or anywhere where they are brought near the eye; while a few are of a climbing and trailing nature and well adapted for trellis or wall decoration.

For border decoration certain annuals are indispensable, and among them come all the hardy kinds that can be sown in the open in late March or early April or later. For background effect there are few annuals of large size to beat the lovely mallow called *Lavatera* Loveliness, whose flowers are of a

good shade of pink without any suggestion of the rankness which is associated with some of the other varieties of *L. trimestris*. No one should hesitate to make generous sowings of this mallow where there is room, for it affords a fine display in the border and associates as well with many perennials, such as the purple *Salvia virgata nemorosa*, blue delphiniums, and anchusas, or the yellow *Anthemis Kelwayi*, as it does with white cosmos, another annual of some height that is not to be overlooked for the border. Then there are the annual sunflowers for those who like them, the annual rudbeckias, among which the new Kelvedon Star should be noted, the larkspurs, and the handsome annual poppies, perhaps the most flagrantly gorgeous of all annuals and invaluable for their blaze of colour (unfortunately all too short-lived) in the summer border.

There are more than enough annuals to go round when it comes to the furnishing of the front line and middle rows of the border. Choice can be made from the clarkias and godetias, two families rich in good things; the viscarias; annual chrysanthemums; candytuft; mignonette; the annual gypsophila; coreopsis; calendulas, including the recent newcomer called *Chrysanthus* or Sunshine; and the African and French marigolds, as well as the fine variety named Guinea Gold, which is indispensable for late summer and autumn effect; the cornflowers; and those charming blue-flowered annuals, *Nigella* Miss Jekyll; the two phacelias, *campanularia* and *viscida*, of which the form raised a year or two ago by Mr. Musgrave is the best; *Nemophila insignis*; the lovely annual anchusa called Bluebird; and the equally beautiful *Cynoglossum amabile* with flowers of a real blue. These hardy kinds can be supplemented where there is room with the annual *Phlox Drummondii*, the no less brilliant *nemesias* and the zinnias which have been so enormously improved in the last few years; *salpiglossis*, *nicotianas*, the charming little *brachycome*, sweet sultan and, of course, the hosts of *antirrhinums*, stocks and asters.

Of those that luxuriate in dry and sunny positions and can be trusted to do well in a border or on a bank in full sun, and in soil rather on the poor and thin side, the nasturtiums, of which by far the best is the new semi-double Golden Gleam; the poppyworts or the *eschscholtzias*, which now offer such a wide range of gorgeous shades; and the South African *dimorphothecas* and their close cousins the *ursinias*, are possibly the most valuable. No one should hesitate to give a place to *D. aurantiaca* and its apricot and lemon yellow forms, as well as to the charming *D. pluvialis*



HARDY ANNUALS EFFECTIVELY USED AS AN EDGING TO THE SUMMER BORDER

ringens, whose pure white daisies are enhanced in their centre by a broad ring of rich purple; while the two *ursinias*, *U. anthoides* and *U. pulchra*, need no recommendation. Though only of comparatively recent introduction, they have already shown themselves to be first-rate annuals for filling any sunny place. Seldom seen, the Mexican poppy, *Argemone grandiflora*, is a beautiful annual with large white poppy-like blossoms somewhat resembling those of the bush poppy, *Romneya Coulteri*, and prickly foliage much like

a sea holly, which enjoys a warm soil and the hottest exposure; and the same can be said of the Californian *Bartonia aurea*, which is only half the height of the argemone, but a most showy plant, that is best treated as a half-hardy annual, though it can be sown in the open in late summer, for flowering the following year, or in April. Few annuals are more pleasing on a hot sunny bank than *Portulaca grandiflora*, with both double and single flowers, varying in colour from light pink to deep crimson and through all shades of yellow and orange. As its companions it might have the vivid crimson *Calandrinia umbellata* and the uncommon *Thunbergia alata*, a trailing half-hardy annual with dark-eyed yellow, buff and apricot flowers, which also enjoys the sunniest and warmest situations.

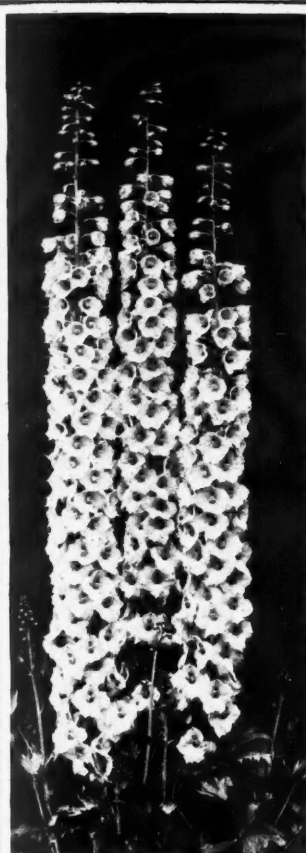
Among the real dwarfs the blue woodruff, *Asperula azurea setosa*, is a charming little sweet-scented annual with greyish blue flowers that associates well with *Alyssum maritimum*. In *Anagallis cœrulea* the gardener has another little beauty of a good blue, only about six inches high, suitable for a warm and sunny place in the rock garden. The dwarf *leptosiphons*, of neat, compact habit and rich and varied colouring, are not without value for the rock garden, where the dainty violet-flowered *Ionopsidium acaule*

and the faintly blue stonecrop, *Sedum cœruleum*, should also be given a place, as well as the comparatively new strain of miniature *antirrhinums* known as the Rock hybrids. At the other end in scale of size come the annual daturas and the common balsam, *Impatiens glandulifera*, both annuals that are excellent for filling any large spaces, the latter being particularly useful for furnishing any open clearance at the edge of woodland, where its 8 ft. high stems look singularly effective in the late summer. The pretty canary creeper, *Tropæolum peregrinum*, with bright pale yellow flowers, is, perhaps, the best known of the climbing annuals and is a fine vigorous grower for affording a temporary screen on a trellis-work; but those who have the place to suit them—a warm and sunny south or west wall being the best—should not overlook the beautiful *Ipomœa rubro-cœrulea*, with blossoms of an exquisite blue, and the equally lovely *Maurandia Barclayana*, a refined-looking plant with rather delicate-looking foliage and small purple foxglove-like flowers. Like *Ipomœa Heavenly Blue*, this is really a perennial but is best treated as a half-hardy annual, being sown in March in slight heat, and planted out in June against a warm wall. Both these annuals are among the most beautiful of climbing plants and too good to be neglected.



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IT is eminently satisfactory that more and more growers of fruit are now recognising that the best way of safeguarding their trees and bushes from attacks of insect and fungus pests, and so ensuring abundant crops of good quality, clean and healthy fruits, is to carry out during the year a regular course of preventive spraying. Patient investigation at the various fruit research stations in different parts of the country, and notably at the East Malling Research Station, which has recently issued, as a result of its twenty years' experience, a spraying calendar which will be found invaluable to all amateur as well as professional growers, has provided ample proof of the wisdom and value of regular spraying with different materials at different seasons in preventing the occurrence and checking the spread of those diseases and pests that are only too familiar to all who grow fruit. Spasmodic spraying in the summer, when the damage is evident, is not of much use, though it is, perhaps, an accessory measure of value where there is no proper system of treatment. Prevention of disease should be the whole object of the fruit grower rather than the undertaking of curative measures which are merely tinkering with the trouble, and with this in view spraying in winter and in early and late spring should become as much a part of the regular routine duties in the fruit garden as cultivation and manuring. To neglect the use of the sprayer is to invite the production of poor quality fruit and is false economy.

There is as yet no general wash available that will prevent or remedy all the troubles to which fruit trees and bushes are subject. In order to control the many different pests recourse must be had to several sprays for use at different seasons. Recent research has provided the grower with certain powerful washes that control a number of different insect pests, but, so far, there is none which combines satisfactorily the properties of both an insecticide and fungicide, and the grower must therefore employ separate sprays. For use in the winter, the tar distillate washes are undoubtedly the most efficient, and no fruit grower should neglect to spray his trees during the dormant season from December to January (on no account should these washes be used when the buds are starting into growth) with one of the many proprietary brands of these tar oil washes that are now at his disposal, for, though they do not prevent or cure all insect and fungus pests, they go a long way towards promoting clean and healthy trees, and considerably reduce the necessity for intensive spring spraying.

Perhaps the safest and most generally useful spray to use at this season is lime-sulphur. A most efficient fungicide, it checks the spread of many diseases, including mildew, the disfiguring apple and pear scab, and brown rot, and is not without its value as an insecticide, for when no winter spraying has been done it can be relied on to destroy the first hatchings of aphids, whose appearance synchronises with the opening of the bud scales. A further advantage of lime-sulphur is its prevention of bud attack by birds, a point not to be overlooked by the fruit grower as well as by those who find some of their flowering shrubs, such as the forsythias, stripped of their flower buds by mischievous finches and sparrows. The coating of the buds with a thin film of a lime-sulphur wash renders them unpalatable to the birds, and gooseberries and currants in particular, which suffer from the unwelcome attentions of birds at this season, will benefit considerably from a timely application. The strength usually recommended for spraying to check fungus diseases and aphides is about one gallon of the concentrated solution (best purchased from a reliable horticultural sundriesman and not made up at home) to thirty gallons of water. A lime-sulphur spray will also materially check red spider on apples and gooseberries, and will improve the health of raspberry canes that show a tendency to "die back"; while it is the best spray available for preventing big-bud and reversion of black currants. Wherever black currants are grown, spraying with lime-sulphur should be carried out every spring, and it is important to spray at the right time, when the leaves are just unfolding and before the unopened flower trusses show from the tiny leaf clusters.

For the treatment of apples and pears afflicted with scab disease, lime-sulphur and Bordeaux mixture are both effective—the one chemical possessing certain advantages over the other for particular varieties. With some varieties of apples two sprayings are necessary, the first when the pink flush on the apple bud is seen, and the second when the petals have fallen; while with pears a third spraying may be necessary in early June. As with lime sulphur, Bordeaux mixture should be obtained from the manufacturers ready for use with dilution with water, for it is likely to be much more satisfactory than the home-made mixture. Bordeaux mixture is of considerable value also in preventing leaf curl in peaches and nectarines; but if it is to be effective it must be used immediately before the buds swell.

Where winter spraying has not been done, it will be necessary to spray the trees thoroughly with a nicotine or quassia wash or any good insecticide, when the new leaves appear, following this with a second application just before the flowers open, to check such sucking insects as aphides, capsid bug and apple sucker. As a preventive to attack by leaf-eating caterpillars and other grubs, an arsenate of lead spray should be applied when the young leaves appear and again when the flowers are over. Where trees are attacked by caterpillars and infected with scab, a spray to check the two can be made up by mixing lead arsenate with lime-sulphur in the proportion of half a pound of lead paste to each ten gallons of the diluted fungicide; while, similarly, nicotine can be added to the lime-sulphur where blight is present in addition to fungus disease. Apart from these basic washes, such sprays as Katakilla, Abol and XL-All liquid nicotine are most effective against many insect and fungus pests in the early stages of attack, and with a prompt application of any of these reliable proprietary insecticides, serious injury to the trees will be avoided.

Spraying should always be done in dull and calm weather, and it is important to see that every part of the tree or bush is thoroughly coated with a thin film of the spray to provide an impenetrable armour against fungus spores and insects. Too much importance cannot be attached to the proper application of the spraying fluids and the need for a reliable and soundly constructed spraying machine. Where there are only a few trees and bushes, no gardener will go wrong with one of the bucket type of sprayers, such as the Marvel; but for the average well stocked fruit garden choice should fall on one of the pneumatic knapsack machines, such as the Four Oaks, the Martsmith or Abol sprayers, which are all most efficient and the most economical to employ where there are a number of trees to be treated.

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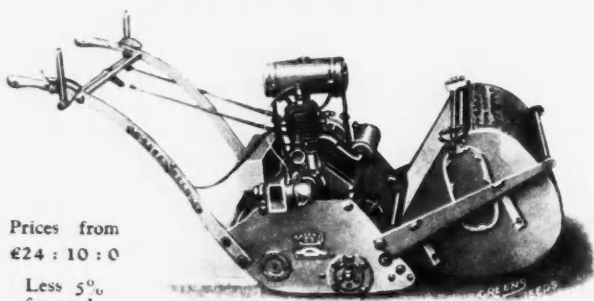
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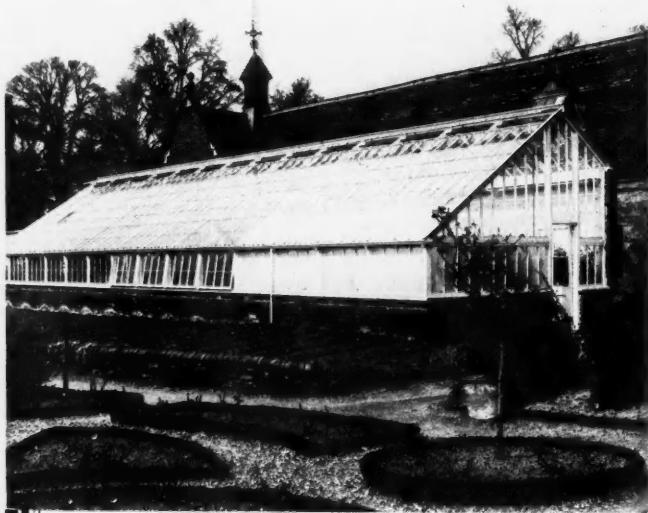
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